

INDIAN GUIDE PASSAGE CEREMONY

(BB) = Big Brave (LB) = Little Brave

Tom-Tom and Lead Runner/Torchbearer: Lead procession to Council Ring. Along the way, the tom-tom beats slowly and the Lead Runner (Torchbearer) recites the message below at each tribe's cabin.

Lead Runner (BB): Chief (dad's Indian name) of the mighty (your tribe name) invites members of our Federation making passage in our program to join us at the council ring.

When the torchbearer/leadrunner arrives at the council ring, please wait for all behind to gather up towards the council ring and then Ceremony Chief will start.

Ceremony Chief (BB): Who approaches our sacred Council Ring?

Lead Runner (BB): Oh Great Chief of the Sacred Council Ring, I Chief (dad's Indian name), bring Big and Little Braves who have proven their worth and wish to make passage from our Federation.

Ceremony Chief (LB): Enter all who are worthy.

Tom-Tom *beats drum slowly until all have entered and are seated in the council ring.*

Ceremony Chief (BB): Welcome Big Braves and Little Braves to our Council Ring. Join us now as we call up the Great Spirit to be with us tonight.

Medicine Man (BB): Oh Great Spirit, be with us now as these Fathers and Sons bind themselves to be "Pals Forever". Help us to sacrifice selfishness and impatience tonight and always.

Medicine Man (LB): Great Spirit, send the hovering spirit for guidance and direction.

Ceremony Chief (BB): If the Great Spirit is satisfied that all within our Council Ring are worthy, we ask him to give us a sign.

Fire-Starter: (FIRE STARTER LIGHTS CENTER FIRE)

Ceremony Chief (BB): We are happy the Great Spirit has found us all to be worthy. We have come here tonight to honor many Guides and Big Braves who have spent much time in the Prairie Trail Federation. Each of you has been part of our family for many moons. Big Braves and Guides have given their support to each other, and you have also contributed in some part, be it large or small to the betterment of the Prairie Trail Federation Family. It is only fitting that we honor each of you passing from our program.

At the ceremony when each of you entered Indian Guides, each of the Four Winds had words of wisdom for you. Now that you are leaving, I once again call on the Four Winds to offer you guidance.

Ceremony Chief (LB): Let the tom-tom call the East Wind.

Tom-Tom: *beats drum 4 times*

Fire-Starter: (EAST WIND EXPLOSION)

East Wind (LB): The East Wind speaks to you.

East Wind (BB): The message I bring to those making passage is this. Even as you leave the Indian Guides; you never leave the spirit of our program. Instead, just as the sun starts the new day by rising in the East, you are starting anew with your Big Brave. Only now, you have built a relationship between you that will never end.

East Wind (LB): This is the wisdom of the East Wind. Let the tom-tom call the South Wind.

Tom-Tom: *beats drum 4 times*

Fire-Starters: **(SOUTH WIND EXPLOSION)**

South Wind (LB): The South Wind speaks to you.

South Wind (BB): The message I bring is this. Just as the South Wind brings the air which keeps you warm, so too will you always have a warm place in your heart remembering all the experiences you shared during these many past moons.

South Wind (LB): This is the message of the South Wind. Let the tom-tom call the North Wind.

Tom-Tom: *beats drum 4 times*

Fire-Starters: **(NORTH WIND EXPLOSION)**

North Wind (LB): The North Wind speaks.

North Wind (BB): The North Wind brings the cold winter air, and just as you little braves could always find protection from the cold wrapped in your Big Braves arms, you will all continue to find protection and support from your Big Brave for the rest of your lives. Your Big Brave has proven to you that you can count on him. So, even as you grow up, you can be comforted and protected by keeping your relationship close.

North Wind (LB): This is the wisdom of the North Wind. Let the tom-tom call the West Wind.

Tom-Tom: *beats drum 4 times*

Fire-Starters: **(WEST WIND EXPLOSION)**

West Wind (LB): The West Wind speaks.

West Wind (BB): The West Winds blows the storms away, and you passing Little and Big Braves now have built a bond that should help you through any personal storms or problems, as long as you trust and confide in each other. And, just like storms, problems are not as bad when you have someone to guide and comfort you.

West Wind (LB): This is the wisdom of the West Wind.

Ceremony Chief (BB): Thank you Four Winds for your words of wisdom.

Ceremony Chief (BB): I now call upon our Federation Chief to join us at the Council Ring.

Federation Chief (BB): HOW HOW, HOW HOW, HOW HOW.

Federation Chief (BB): Welcome all Big and Little Braves. I now ask the outgoing tribal chiefs and new tribal chiefs to come down and join us at our council fire.

Federation Chief (BB) The tribal chiefs are an integral part of the federation family. Each tribe is unique as the individuals who make it one. The strength of our organization depends on each tribe, on each chief. The old chief hands the new chief an important responsibility tonight. The old chiefs have worked hard for the last year or more. The future strength of your tribe depends on the new chiefs. Lead by example. Be enthusiastic. You owe it to those who have come before you. You owe it to those who will come after you. You owe it to your son. You owe it to yourself. Take the job with conviction. The programs success is in your hands.

New chief, repeat after me: I (Indian Name) pledge to do my best as chief, for my son, for my tribe, and for the federation. Please join me in offering 3 big How-How's to the outgoing and incoming chiefs.

HOW-HOW, HOW-HOW, HOW-HOW

Federation Chief (BB): I now ask the old and new chiefs to return to their places around the council ring.

Federation Chief (BB): I now call upon the Little Braves and Big Braves that will make passage tonight to join us around the council fire.

Federation Chief (BB): Six months ago, during the feast of the Falling Leaf Moon, the Prairie Trail Federation welcomed new Big and Little Braves into our family. The tree depicted on your induction patch reminded us of the roots you and your Guide would grow as you participated in this program. Now is your chance to look back and see how you have watered these roots. These roots will help you later on when the winds of change blow through and around your family tree. For the Big Braves and Guides not passing from our program, make that commitment again to water these roots with time.

For those who are passing, we will distribute among you kernels of corn, for just as each of you made a sacrifice when you entered Indian Guides, so you must once again. But, this time the sacrifices are reversed. Big Braves, it is you who must sacrifice patience. As your Guide continues to grow and mature, he will find new interests outside the home and family. He will experience new things that will challenge you; he will listen to music you won't understand. You, Big Braves must show patience and understanding that this little boy is not so little anymore.

Little Braves, you must be the one to sacrifice time. There will be many times when your friends may want you to go out with them at the same time your family has something planned. You must take the time to continue your friendship with your Big Brave and the rest of the family. The most precious thing a family has is love. You must take the time with your family, to make that love grow.

(HAND OUT CORN TO BIG AND LITTLE BRAVES MAKING PASSAGE)

Now, as a symbol of your sacrifice you may throw your kernels of corn into the fire. As you throw the kernel into the fire, study the flames that make up the fire, see how they ever move, they ever change. Each flame moves around the other flames yet adds to the beauty of the fire. Let this be like your place in your family. You may each have different ways and things that make you special, keep these things but add to the beauty of your family.

Federation Chief (BB): Your headband tells the story of father and son through friendly service to each other, to their family, to their tribe, and to their community, seek a world pleasing to the Eye of the Great Spirit. And most important of all, your vest holds the symbols of your growing relationship with your Big Brave. Every patch should tell a story and trigger fond memories. As you pass from the Indian Guide Program you will seldom find occasions to wear your vests. Before you put these precious items away, I ask you to use these symbols to recall some of the best times of your life. Remember your first guide campout and the wonders of the induction ceremony. Remember how you reached up to hold your Big Braves hand. As you pass from our Council Ring, I will give each person passing your last Guide symbol as a reminder of the good times spent as an Indian Guide. We know that as you grow up, you will come to realize just how special these years with your Dad have been. And, remember the Wisdom of the Four Winds: No matter what problems may develop through your life, you can team to deal with them as long as you have the love, understanding and support of your father and your family.

The last act required for passing is a renewal of the pledge you made many moons ago. I ask that all passing Little and Big Braves face each other and hold right hands. Big Braves place your left hand on the right shoulder of your little brave.

Federation Chief (BB): Big Braves, repeat after me: PALS FOREVER SON !!!

Federation Chief (LB): Little Braves, repeat after me: PALS FOREVER DAD !!!

(PASS OUT PASSAGE PINS TO LITTLE BRAVES ONLY)

Federation Chief (BB): Now all the remaining Big and Little Braves, lets hear three big How-How's for our passing friends

HOW-HOW, HOW-HOW, HOW-HOW

Federation Chief (BB): We have now concluded our passage ceremony and now I ask the Great Spirit to come down and touch each one of us, keep us safe, and keep this relationship between father and son special for the rest of their life.

Tom-Tom: *beats drum 10 times rapidly to end the ceremony.*